

NEWSLETTER EXTRAORDINARY EDITION VOLUME 14



Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world: indeed it's the only thing that ever does.
(Margaret Mead)



Easter is raw reality. Easter stands in stark witness, not to the meaning of death, but to the meaning of what it is to go on despite death, in the face of death—because of death. To celebrate Easter means to stand in the light of the empty tomb and decide what to do next. Until we come to realize that, we stand to misread the meaning not simply of the Easter gospel but of our own lives. We miss the point. We make Easter an historical event rather than a life-changing commitment. We fail to realize that Easter demands as much of us now as it did of the apostles then.

PAUSE TO REFLECT



After Easter, the tomb stands open for all of us to enter. If Jesus is risen, then you and I have no choice but to go into the tomb, put on the leftover garments ourselves, and follow Jesus back to Galilee where the poor cry for food and cripples cry to be taken to the pool and the blind wait for the spittle on their eyes to dry.

St AUGUSTINE

A Christian is:
a mind through which Christ thinks, a heart through which Christ loves,
a voice through which Christ speaks and a hand through which Christ helps.



PRAY WITH US

We send out Evening Prayer daily to anyone who would like to receive it. It is also available on our website.

Please contact one of us if you would like to be added to the circulation list.

We pray for the needs and realities of our world and for the needs of all those people who have asked for our prayer.

We pray in thanksgiving for our own health and safety and also for those families and communities who have experienced grief and bereavement during these COVID times.

We are especially aware of the Servite and Sisters of Charity of St Paul the Apostle (Selly Park) who have had several sisters die recently. We feel a special connection with these communities through Sister Jean and Sisters Elizabeth, Michelle and Sheila all of whom live in Chelmsford.

COMMUNITY NEWS

JOURNEYING THROUGH LENT AND INTO EASTERTIDE

We have rocketed our way into the realities of Zoom over the last months and it has been a huge joy for us to connect with so many known and unknown friends near and far.

Even the shortest of greetings of recognition have been so meaningful for us and we are deeply grateful to each and every person who has been part of our journey through Lent.

Many dozens joined us to travel through the days of the Triduum in a united and connected way that we haven't experienced for some years.

Shared readings and reflections gave depth of meaning to our COVID restricted lives in a very real way.

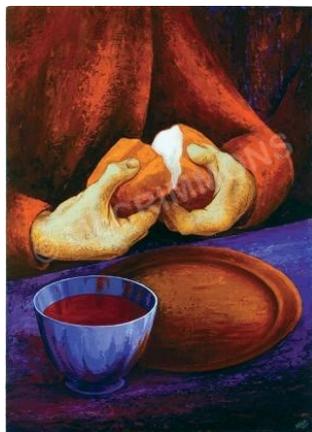
We were also pleased that S. M. Stephen led two sessions of reflection on her own artwork in the series 'Bread Broken'.

The accompanying text by Bishop Konstant was read by S. M. Gabriel and was very appropriate for our times.

The sessions have been recorded and are on our website:

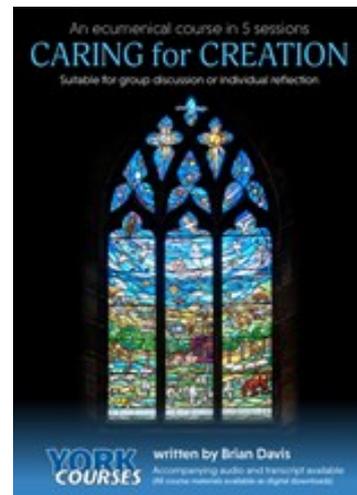
[BREAD BROKEN - Reflecting on Sister Mary Stephen's art and the Journey through the Cross PART 1 - YouTube](#)

[Bread Broken Part 2 Lent 2021 - reflecting on the art of Sister Mary Stephen CRSS - YouTube](#)



Mary Stephen Bread Broken

CARING FOR CREATION



Over 30 of us joined together every Monday evening to follow the Lent course 'Caring for Creation'.

It was an informative and practical course which increased our awareness of the sacredness of God's creation and our responsibility as stewards of 'God's home'.

Also available on our website is the session reflecting on the 'Journey of the Cross' by Sieger Köder:

[Stations of the Cross - reflections on the paintings of Sieger Koder - Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre](#)

PRAYER TAPESTRY

Many of you will remember Jo Thompson who worked in the Bursary with us at New Hall and then came to be our Community Bursar for many years in our post New Hall life. What you may not know is that Jo is a keen and adept needlewoman and she - along with some of her sewing group - is taking on the task of creating a sewn version of our prayer tapestry which depicts names of people known to any of us who have died during 2020 and 2021 - many from COVID but not all. We are very grateful to Jo and feel that this will be something to treasure for many years.

As a Community we pray together regularly for all those people whose names are on the tapestry.



Please feel able to send us names of people known to you who have died or will die in 2020 and 2021. We will add them to the tapestry and include them in our prayer. Please use the link below.

[Covid Memorial Tapestry - Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre](#)

HIDDEN HISTORIES

We were very pleased to be part of a two-evening online event run by the Centre for Catholic Studies at Durham University on recovering the importance of the archives of religious communities, from the break with Rome to the present day.

Both Dr Hannah Thomas and Dr Cormac Begadon gave presentations focussed on our history and archive material and both were greeted with appreciation and interest. And the whole event was organised and led by Dr James Kelly - son of Linda and Des!! Both sessions are available on YouTube.

[Hidden Histories: Part 1 - YouTube](#)

[Hidden Histories: Part 2 - YouTube](#)



The important thing to remember is that we are not meant to see the crucifixion as an end point. We are not to centre the entire spiritual life there. There is nothing Christian about treating the crucifixion as the acme of the spiritual pursuit and the focus of our faith. The focus of our faith is the awareness that the Christ who lives beyond the cross calls us beyond it, as well. It is the resurrection that brings faith to wholeness, to more than the mere acceptance of the dour reality of life here, to what the church to this day calls "this valley of tears." We have reason, the resurrection reminds us, to believe in the ultimate blessedness of life even in the midst of its natural sufferings.

FOR REFLECTION

Our life, too, the resurrection says, does not end here. The call of the resurrection is to hope. To know that there is life beyond this life. To know that what we know of blessing here is only a fraction of the life to come.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please join us for any of the following on Zoom - links to follow via Mailchimp:

Tuesday April 20th 6pm: Vaccine Ethics - a chance to discuss the many questions raised by the vaccine roll out.

Wednesday 5th May 6pm: Mental Health issues during COVID - led by Emma Harlow of the Mental Health department at Broomfield hospital.

Friday 14th May 6pm: Open forum with MP Vicky Ford, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families. A chance to discuss issues related to children and their educational needs highlighted by the pandemic.

Monday 17th May 6pm: Looking at the new translation of the Lectionary - led by Tablet columnist Liz Dodd.

And 'in the flesh'..... we hope:

We are inviting all our friends and contacts to 'drop in' on us simply to make a connection again and enjoy a cup of tea or cool drink on either Friday 25th or Saturday 26th September. One will be in Chelmsford and one in Colchester. Details to follow pandemic allowing!

END WITH A SMILE!!

2014: Didn't jog
2015: Didn't jog
2016: Didn't jog
2017: Didn't jog
2018: Didn't jog
2019: Didn't jog
2020: Still haven't jogged
This is a running joke.

Stages of Lockdown



This is fun to do
with friends.

Pick your Lockdown House

You can only choose one

HOUSE 1 Netflix Blankets Unlimited snacks	HOUSE 2 Country Walks Fire Pit Unlimited Wine
HOUSE 3 Private Beach Home Gym Pizza and Beer	HOUSE 4 Swimming Pool In-house Starbucks Unlimited Chocolate
HOUSE 5 Mountain Views Garden & Hammock Scenic Walks	HOUSE 6 Library Hot Tub Home Cinema

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